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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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## Mayor talks taxes in update for residents

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

AGAWAM — With property taxes due earlier this week, Mayor William Sapelli gave residents an update on the state of town tax collection.

Sapelli explained the current tax rate, which for residents is \$16.80. The rate was lowered by three cents from last year's rate. The tax rate often has crepted up over the past several years, but the city council sought to make things just a little bit easier for residents during the pandemic.

Agawam's residential tax rate continues to be among the low-

est in the region, and one of the lowest for like-sized towns. West Springfield, Agawam's neighbor, has a tax rate of \$16.90 for fiscal year 2021.

The tax rate is charged per \$1,000 valuation of real property.

Sapelli explained how estimated taxes and actual tax bill are calculated.

Sapelli said while the tax rate lowered, many property values have risen.

Assessor Carolyn Reed said the average tax value was \$244,000. This year, she said the average home value went up about 2.5 percent and is hovering around \$250,000 now. She said home

values rising are always good for those who have invested in their home and want to make money off a potential sale. However, rising values can make a tax bill go up despite the tax being a bit lower.

"The average taxpayer saw about a two percent increase in their tax bills," said Reed.

Sapelli lauded town services as the reason for making property values rise.

"What would have increased that value is the fact that your community here has some great services," said Sapelli. "Whether it is the senior center, or the

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## VFW Honor Guard welcomes new president

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON D.C. — Jan. 20 will forever be remembered by the members of the Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard, which partook in the virtual "Parade Across America," celebrating President Joe Biden's inauguration.

A group of five veterans was chosen to represent the Commonwealth on a national stage last Wednesday, as the country turned a page and welcomed in the Biden Administration.

"This is the first time in the history of the inauguration parade that all 56 states and terri-



Members of the Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard pose together at Sot Park in Chicopee. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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## Snow postpones city council meeting

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

AGAWAM — The Agawam City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, Feb. 1 was canceled due to the nor'easter

that brought between eight and 12 inches of snow to the region. The meeting was to feature a public hearing for an ordinance change to add a charge for electric vehicle charging at the town-sponsored charging

stations. That public hearing along with the rest of the council agenda has been moved to Feb. 8, according to the council's office. The following meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 16.



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# Fresh food being distributed to families in need

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Massachusetts Military Support Foundation (MMSF), which distributed Patriot Farm Food Boxes at Eastern States Exposition's Better Living Center, has handed out its 1 millionth pound of fresh food. This will mark their 1 millionth pound of fresh food distributed in Western Massachusetts since October 2020, when the MMSF stepped up after the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box program's funding was cut. The USDA's program has recently been approved for further funding and the MMSF was selected as a distribution partner for the USDA's Farmers to Families program.

Farmers to Families Food Boxes provide well-balanced, prepackaged perishable food to

combat the massive food insecurity problem posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The foods come from farms and producers severely affected by restaurant, school and other closures that interrupted their supply chain. Instead, through federal grants and the efforts of volunteer groups such as the MMSF, the nutritious food is directed to those in need on a local and national scale. Each food package contains 32 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products and meat products. The distribution process follows all COVID-19 health guidelines. Participants have limited interaction as they pick up their food boxes, which are easy to access.

Veterans and the general public are eligible

to receive food boxes and preregistration is required through [www.mmsfi.org](http://www.mmsfi.org). Boxes will be distributed each Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. until Feb. 27.

Anyone who has preregistered to receive a Farmers to Families Food Box will enter Gate 9 from Memorial Avenue, proceed to Gate 8 and follow directions from event staff to the Better Living Center for check in. The distribution of Farmers to Families food boxes is a drive-thru event; recipients will remain in their vehicles at all times. Note: Pick up location for Feb. 6 boxes will be the Mallary Building.

## Eucharistic Adoration at St. John's

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

## Gift shop open limited hours

AGAWAM – The Vine and Branches Gift Shop will continue to be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We would like to thank everyone for their patronage during these difficult times and we will continue to pray for health, peace and strength as we all journey through 2021 together. You may contact our Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN at 413-786-8200 ext.3 with any questions or concerns.

tories were featured. We've done a number of high-profile parades in the past, but this is the highest honor that we've been involved in. We knew we're up to the task and put as much energy into this as possible," said Brian Willette, a U.S. Army veteran from South Hadley, who carried a rifle during the procession.

Willette partook in the venture alongside his daughter Christine Lupacchino, a U.S. Air Force and Chicopee resident, who serves as Commander of the Honor Guard.

Eric Segundo, a U.S. Army veteran from Springfield, Rene Fuentes, a U.S. Navy veteran from Randolph and Keith Buckhout, a U.S. Marine and Air Force veteran from Easthampton rounded out the five-person unit.

On Jan. 20, the Honor Guard paid tribute to "The Greatest Generation," veterans who served in WWII, and "The Newest Greatest Generation," members of today's all-volunteer U.S. Armed Forces.

During its presentation, members of the Honor Guard wore WWII Airborne uniforms, revealing the distinctive shoulder insignia of the 82nd Airborne Division, the country's first division compromised entirely of all-volunteer Paratroopers.

While the Honor Guard filmed and submitted its routine more than a month ago, it did not receive word of its selection until two days prior to the inauguration. Fortunately, the group had mentally prepared itself for the spotlight.

The Honor Guard was featured on national television twice last Wednesday, once during the virtual parade and again in the evening on "Celebrating America," a special inauguration program that was hosted by actor Tom Hanks.

Willette, Commander of the MA Military Order of the Purple Heart, noted that, "This event really encapsulated everything that we stand for."

The national stage was not too big for the five-person squad of combat veterans, who hone



U.S. Army veteran Brian Willette of the MA VFW Foreign Wars Honor Guard partook in the virtual "Parade Across America" on Jan. 20 alongside his daughter, Honor Guard Commander Christine Lupacchino, a U.S. Air Force and Chicopee resident, Eric Segundo, a U.S. Army veteran from Springfield, Rene Fuentes, a U.S. Navy veteran from Randolph and Keith Buckhout, a U.S. Marine and Air Force veteran from Easthampton. SUBMITTED PHOTO

their skills at a wide range of events each year.

"Whether it's posting the colors at a little league championship game here in western Mass or at a Red Sox game, the same professionalism and dedication goes into each Honor Guard presentation," said Willette.

Willette was especially proud of his daughter, Lupacchino, who offered a congratulatory message to President Biden. Participating in the Honor Guard is a family tradition that dates back many decades.

"My dad and her grandfather was a member of the old United States Honor Guard in Washington D.C. in the 1950s," said Willette. "I often think it skipped me and went to her; the expertise. She really knows her stuff as our Commander. I couldn't be prouder."

For Willette, the recent attack on the U.S. Capitol brought added significance to an honor that he already considered to be special in its own right. He explained how the events that unfolded in Washington D.C. several weeks ago impacted his approach.

"The events of Jan. 6 added special weight to this day. The attack on the Capitol, I feel, was a direct attack on our Constitution," said Willette. "It increased the magnitude and gave us that extra pride. Being all veterans, we've sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic, and I feel that we played a role in upholding that Constitution on Jan. 20, participating in the inauguration."

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

### VFW ■ from page 1

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*presenting....*

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# More beds needed in Soldiers Home proposal

By Shelby Macri  
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Soldiers Home has been in the spotlight this past year with the deaths of 78 veterans due to COVID-19 within the facility.

During this time, the Holyoke Soldiers Home Coalition formed, with members consisting of veterans, family of veterans, and past Soldier's Home staff.

Including Jon Paradis, the former Deputy Superintendent of the Soldiers' Home from 2013-15 and Paul Barabani, the Former Superintendent of the Soldiers' Home from 2011-16. The Coalition serves as a collective voice of the community in regards to the dealings of the vets within the Soldiers Home. Both Barabani and Paradis spoke during a press conference presentation on Tuesday Jan. 26, where the coalition spoke about the plans for the new Soldier's Home building.

Barabani spoke about his time working in the Soldiers' Home, and the need to replace 270 beds in fiscal year 2013. During this time there was a plan to make 120 private rooms, rooms that are bigger and bathrooms within; and to renovate 150 beds as semi-private rooms with two people in it. At the time there were three to four beds in one room the veterans had to share with others. Many residents kept their wheelchairs and walkers outside of their rooms because there wasn't space within the room to store them.

In 2013 the plan was to separate people from each other, and if vets had to share a room it would only be with one other person. During this time the Department of Veterans Affairs approved to match funds for the project. The VA agreed to give 65% of the total funds and the state agreed to match the funds by 35%, but the State failed to verify the matching funds by the August first deadline and the project didn't happen.

Because beds weren't added and the project didn't happen there were many family members calling from the waiting list, expressing that it's getting harder to take care of their veteran at home.

"While I was the deputy at the soldiers home we had about 300 veterans on the waiting list for a room, that's why we were looking to expand in 2013," Paradis said. "After that project didn't happen I was always on the phone speaking with family members that are concerned for their veteran's safety and that they need help. That's when we decided to try to make an adult day health care, so vets would be taken care of here and then go home at the end of the day to make things easier on their family."

However, that project in 2014 did not come to fruition either because the state failed to verify matching funds again.

The Coalition is gathered currently to make sure the needs of the vets and their families are heard during this round of creating more rooms at the Soldiers Home. A study was done by the State to estimate how many beds to put into the new facility, this study was done on the numbers from this past year. During 2020, 40% of vets on the wait list died while waiting, others were taken off the list for different reasons and six asked to be taken off the list because 78 veterans had died in the Soldiers Home already.

These varying numbers from this past year caused the state to offer 150 beds in the new building, estimating a decline of the veteran population by 57 people.

The Coalition feels that not only will the number of veterans on the waitlist rise, but that the number of active duty servicemen is rising especially with the use of those in the National Guard. Those people will be eligible for Veterans benefits later in life, and this new building will need to last and maintain the health of vets for many years to come. The members of the Coalition feel that 280 beds will be sufficient, as it ac-



The Holyoke Soldiers Home Coalition seeks more beds than the state has proposed. SUBMITTED PHOTO  
counts for a rise in wait listed vets, eligible  
vets, and those with disabilities.

"I'd rather have us make the room and beds now, to accommodate for future generations," Paradis said. "I'm most likely going to spend my final days with my fellow vets in the Soldiers Home, so I'd like to see it stay kept up."

The Coalition is using their collective voices to speak during board of trustee meetings and to speak to those in legislature to try and the most amount of beds and help for the Soldiers Home. The Coalition doesn't have a say in the building of the new Soldiers Home but they are raising their voices so the community is heard. They want the board of trustees and those in legislature to ask hard questions concerning this project. Questions asking if the waitlist analysis is statistically accurate, if the historic demand at the Soldiers Home was properly considered, if the considered future conflicts, and if National Guard and Reserve members are part of the VA projec-

tion.

These are all things that can change the bed count, and the Coalition feels that these aspects weren't considered when the idea of 150 beds was proposed for the new building. The Coalition attends each board of trustee meeting and encourages other residents to attend and speak during public comment, to make sure the needs of veterans in the community is voiced. The Coalition held two other meeting regarding the new building and two members of the board of trustees attended both meetings. Four out of seven trustees have attended the Coalitions meetings and have heard what they have had to say, Paradis is hoping that the board of trustees will push for more beds knowing that veterans are in need of it. While the Coalition is excited that the new building will remain in Holyoke, they are hoping for more accommodation for veterans trying to get into the care facility.

## Participate in virtual photograph show

AGAWAM – Please join us online to participate in our first virtual photography show. Since we couldn't do our usual exhibit at the library, we moved it online so we can continue to share outstanding photography with our community, and to support our beloved library. Officially, this is our First Open Virtual Photography Show. Categories include creative, nature, pictorial, and photojournalism, and the photography never disappoints.

Awards totaling \$1,340 have been de-

termined by our esteemed judges Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both highly respected photographers. Their comments are available online, along with the photographs, so the Show can continue to be an educational experience for participants.

The show can be accessed at [www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/#FriendsPhotoShowFirstVirtual](http://www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/#FriendsPhotoShowFirstVirtual). For further information please contact Bob Kadis at [r.kadis@comcast.net](mailto:r.kadis@comcast.net) or at 413-789-4814.

### TAXES

schools, or the police or fire service. The more attractive the services are in a community, the higher the values go up."

Sapelli also clarified why bills go up sometimes during a given tax year.

Reed explained the tax rate is set in December, so preliminary payments made in August and November are estimated, typically based off last year's mill rate and property values. Once the tax rate has been set, an individual's actual taxes owed for the fiscal year are reconciled in the final two quarters of the year.

"It can get kind of confusing for taxpayers," said Reed.

### HOTLINE

"Although there will be many people working the phones Monday through Friday, it may be necessary for you to leave your name and number and receive a callback," Sapelli said.

Calls are first-come, first-serve, and will be returned in the order received.

Online registration is available, but the hotline is now available for those residents that would prefer that method.

According to the state vaccination plan, Phase 2, which should be taking place between now and the end of March, includes residents 75 and older, then residents 65 and older as well as residents with two or more medical conditions that put that

### from page 1

Sapelli said once the fourth payment is made in May, a resident can compare their overall tax bills year over year.

Also found on tax bills are a line item for the Community Preservation Act, a one percent surcharge on property used for a fund that goes toward various community projects. Communities that participate in the fund also receive funding from the state.

A video of the explanations of tax bills can be found on the town website.

Third quarter tax bills were due to town hall on Monday, Feb. 1.

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person at risk. Essential workers including educators, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, restaurant, and café workers. Those who work other front line jobs are also available in Phase 2, including meatpackers, convenience store workers, and those who work in the court system. The order of priority is listed on the state's website and other places, such as CVS, Walgreens, and some grocery store pharmacies could begin carrying the vaccine before long.

The Town of Agawam will continue to update the public as it navigates through Phase 2. Phase 3 vaccinations are supposed to begin in April.

## Valentine's Drive-Thru Supper

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# Opinion

## OUR VIEW

### The cost of doing business

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Monday night's Agawam City Council meeting was postponed, and I was really looking forward to the debate regarding the electric vehicle charging station fee.

The issue has drawn some public reaction, including two letters to the editor decrying the possibility of a \$1 per kilowatt hour.

After doing some research on the situation, I understand the charge and how the town's mayor and his team arrived at the charging fee.

One thing I disagree with in both of last week's letters to the editor is that it will detract from people who want to use electric cars.

There are a few things about electric cars that need to be unpacked here. First, electric vehicles are still a relatively newer technology. It's a developing technology and like anything else, the costs are very high. If there is anything keeping people from switching to an electric vehicle right at this moment, it is the cost to purchase one.

But like any new technology, it will be refined over the next 30 years as our country tries to pursue Net-Zero emissions. Electric vehicles will gain more power, they will become more reliable, batteries will carry longer charges, and take less time to charge. Take an iPhone 12, for example. An iPhone 12 can charge in no time and the battery life is outstanding compared to its predecessors.

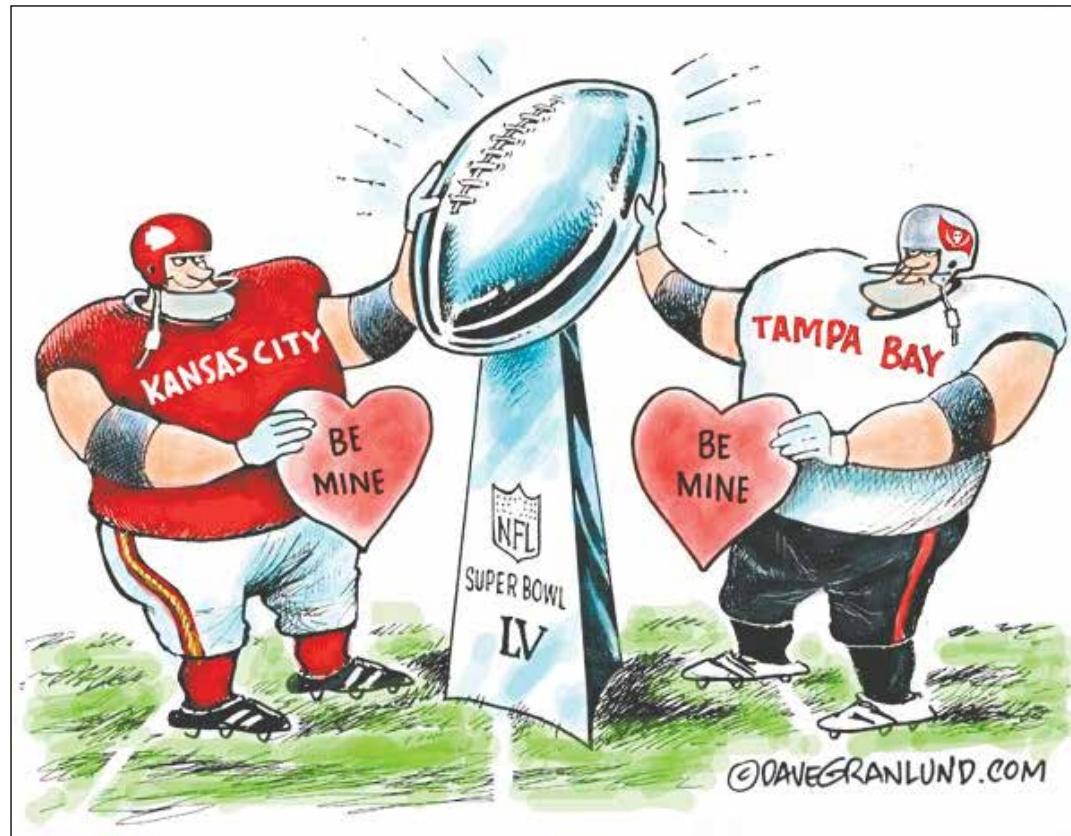
And like many new technologies, the costs will eventually come down as more manufacturers get into the electric vehicle market, and the fad will catch on.

But what about charging the public \$1 per kilowatt hour at a public charging station. Well, that's the cost of doing business. First, based on some research, the Town of Agawam pays about 60 cents per kilowatt hour. That's much higher, but that is the rate for a municipality. The remaining 40 cents is for the network subscription and the costs of maintaining the charging stations.

The goal is to make this a self-sustaining program, and it should be. Taxpayers should not have to be responsible for paying other people's "gas" bills on a regular basis.

The average person who owns an electric vehicle charges it at their home, anyways, whether it be at the end of a day or when the battery has died. Paying \$1 per kilowatt hour while at the park is the price of convenience to be able to give that car a charge while you're walking the dog or throwing a frisbee around. It's like the reason you could pay more than \$5.00 for a two-back of AA batteries at a Cumberland Farms rather than a bulk rate for a package of 40 at Costco. It's the price of convenience.

Electric vehicles are a great thing, and their use will grow over the years. But right here, right now, taxpayers should not be responsible to cover the electric bill of e-vehicle users. And like it or not, you have to pay for convenience, hence the proposed cost by the mayor's office. Otherwise, wait till you get home to re-charge your vehicle.



### Letter to the Editor

#### Thanks to those who donated toys

##### Dear Editor:

The Agawam Zero Waste Club would like to thank all those who contributed to our successful 5th Annual Holiday Used Toy Exchange in November and December of 2020. The exchange was conducted differently this time to comply with COVID-19 health guidelines. Community members sent in pictures of gently used toys they wanted to donate, and participants selected toys, free of charge, from the photos via an online platform. Toys were

later dropped off by appointment, organized outdoors by volunteers, and quarantined in a borrowed trailer. Two weeks later, the toys were picked up by appointment drive-thru style at the Agawam Public Library parking lot through the rain and snow, making this a memorable event!

Thank you to all community members who donated toys; the Agawam Rotary Club, especially Linda Vitro, for organizing & hosting the online format; the Agawam High School SAVE Club

and National Honor Society for getting the word out and helping to organize toys; the Agawam Health Department, Kathy Auer, for providing health guidelines; the Agawam Public Library for helping to coordinate the event; and finally, the Agawam Advertiser News for their press release about this event. We are grateful.

Our best to you,

##### Agawam Zero Waste Club

Nancy Bobskill, Abbey Massaro, Danielle Light, Judy Kiely and Susan Grossberg

### How to grow nutritious sweet potatoes

**T**he sweet potato is a nutritional powerhouse. According to www.nutritiondata.com, it is "low in sodium, and very low in saturated fat and cholesterol. It is also a good source of dietary fiber, vitamin B6 and potassium, and a very good source of vitamin A, vitamin C and manganese." If these facts aren't reason enough to try adding this veggie to our garden this growing season, delight in the fact that it is also a very pretty vine.

If my memory is correct, my Mom attempted to grow sweet potatoes one summer when I was child. It wasn't all that impressive as I recall, at least not as impressive as her peanut growing experiment! Anyhow, the one thing we have against us is that sweet potatoes require a long growing season, somewhere between 90-150 days. The tender shoots are cold sensitive, and must be planted into the ground after all danger of frost has passed. In our area we use Memorial Day as our "frost-free date." Then, the edible root, aka the sweet potato, must be harvested before the first frost of fall. By my records, the first frost usually occurs in early October. This equates to 100 days bare minimum of growing time. Still interested, read on.

You can purchase plants through the mail or try sprouting your own from sweet potatoes purchased from the grocery store. Dick Raymond, author of my favorite gardening book of all time, "Garden Way's Joy of Gardening" (Storey Publishing \$24.95), has some great tips for doing this: Seven or eight weeks prior to Memorial Day, simply cut the spuds in half length-wise and lay them down in moist peat moss in a shallow tray. Cover with plastic wrap and place in a sunny window until sprout-

ing occurs. Slips should be separated and planted about six inches deep, 12 to 15 inches apart from one another. He advises to water well for the first two weeks; after that sweet potato plants are reportedly somewhat drought tolerant. When fertilizing, choose a formulation that is a bit lower in nitrogen, otherwise you will have lots of vines at the expense of sweet potatoes.

Dig up your bounty on a dry day, being extra careful not to damage the skin. Don't leave them exposed to the sun for more than an hour and don't wash them either. Picky, aren't they? Fresh sweet potatoes aren't all that sweet, a curing period of two weeks in the dark at 70 to 80 degrees and at high humidity will bring out the great flavor we are accustomed to. Long-term storage should be at temperatures around 60 degrees.

To make sweet potato fries simply cut the root into thick wedges, then toss them with seasoned olive oil (or a favorite salad dressing). Bake on a cookie sheet at 350 degrees for one hour, flipping occasionally. Some ketchup as a dip may help reluctant kids to give the "funny orange French fries" a try.

It's my hope that you all enjoy growing sweet potatoes from "scratch," so to speak!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenney@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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## Student wins local scholarship



The Agawam Democratic Committee has awarded its annual scholarship to Agawam High School senior Jack Frogameni. Ranked 25 out of 261 enrolled students at Agawam High School, Frogameni will be attending the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, majoring in Marketing at the Isenberg School of Management. Frogameni plans to major in Marketing at UMass with a minor in political science. He already has experience in the role as a political strategist while volunteering for the campaign to re-elect Congressman Richard Neal. This past summer he served as an intern on the Congressman's 2020 Campaign Committee canvassing voters through phone calling, phone banking, and attending standouts. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Agawam Public Library announces February activities

**AGAWAM** – The Agawam Library is open for browsing by appointment on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Call 413-789-1550 to make an appointment. We are open for Grab-and-Go services on Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

Throughout the month of February the library is offering all sorts of activities for kids & teens. Visit our website for more details: [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org) or call 413-789-1550.

**Feb. 1 to 6**

### Stick-together puzzle: For all ages

The Agawam Library is pleased to be able to offer online sticker puzzles through Stick Together, while they last. Access the puzzle by going to <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/>

Patrons of all ages can put up to 250 stickers on the puzzle per day.

### Book bundles: For all ages

Are you stuck in a reading rut? Would you like to try some new authors, or learn something new? Would you like some new books, but don't know where to start? Let us pick some for you!

Request a book bundle on a favorite genre, or maybe one you have never tried!

We will choose books for you based on your answers to some quick questions.

Request a Book Bundle for pickup – use the form at the Agawam Library Children's Page <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/>

**Feb. 8 to 13**

### Krafty Kids: 3D Valentine fishbowl craft kit

For ages 3-5

Preschool children can make a special Valentine craft project. This easy project features two scaly sweethearts swimming in their fishbowl home.

Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning on Feb. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Krafty Kids: Ladybug tic-tac-toe For grades K-4

Create a ladybug tic-tac-toe game by following simple directions. Then play tic-tac-toe

Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning on Feb. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Krafty Kids: Shrink plastic snowflakes For grades 5-8

Use colored pencils on the rough side or permanent markers on the smooth side — no crayons — to decorate these snowflakes, then cut out the designs. Heat them up, and the designs will shrink to seven times smaller and seven times thicker!

Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning on Feb. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

### Stay-at-home Storytime For ages 3-5

We love February! Miss Susan will share some stories about love, and a simple craft on video.

The video will be available starting Feb. 8 at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/>

Limited supplies of the craft will be available beginning on Feb. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

### Valentine decorating For all ages

Collect a Valentine & decorating supplies beginning on Feb. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3. Decorate your Valentine, send us a picture of your finished creation before Feb. 22, at [Agawamchildrenslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:Agawamchildrenslibrary@gmail.com) for a chance to win a small prize! Winners will be announced on Feb. 26.

**Feb. 15 to 20**

### Learn magic tricks with Ed Popielarczyk For all ages

There will be a series of short videos available all week featuring the magician Ed Popielarczyk teaching a variety of magic tricks that you can do from home.

The videos will be available starting February 15th at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/>

### Mug treats For grades 5-8

Let's have lunch! Join Miss Susan for some ZOOM cooking fun. In February, during school vacation, we will be making soup for lunch. Wednesday Feb. 17, at 12 noon – registration is required.

The Zoom ID and Password will be emailed 1 day before the program.

You will need to provide your own ingredients, and mug. We will provide you with an ingredient list one week before the program.

**Feb. 22 to 27**

### Krafty Kids: Winter cardinal handprint For ages 3-5

Children in preschool can follow Ms Rose as she takes you through the steps to make a wonderful winter themed craft. The video will be available starting Feb. 22 at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/> Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning on Feb. 22 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

### Krafty Kids: Bird Mosaic For grades K-4

Follow Ms Susan as she takes you through the steps to make a bird mosaic. The video will be available starting February 22nd at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/>

Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning on February 22nd by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

### Krafty Kids: Bird Origami For grades 5-8

Follow Ms Pamela as she takes you through the steps to make bird origami. The video will be available starting February 22nd at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/>

Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning on February 22nd by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Song and Signs For babies & their caregivers

Enjoy a short video of Ms. Pamela singing songs and teaching some basic sign language for babies and their caregivers. The video will be posted at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/> on Feb. 22.

## Vocalist performing at drive-thru supper

**AGAWAM** – Local outstanding vocalist Joe Saimeri will be the featured outdoor vocalist at the drive-thru supper on Friday, Feb. 12 from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Agawam Congregational Church parking lot drive thru.

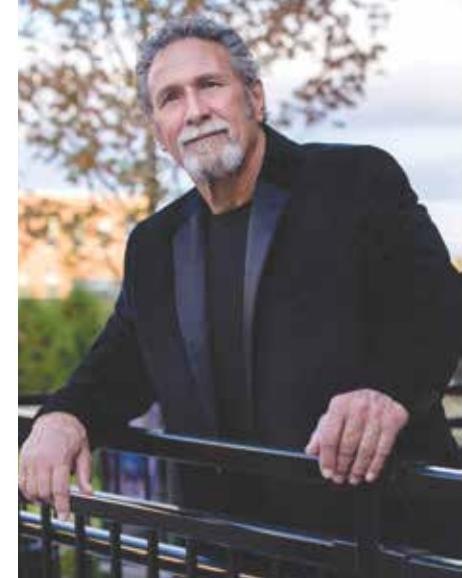
"It will be exciting to sing in whatever the weather will be on the 12th," said Mr. Saimeri. If there is a snowstorm, the event will be moved to the 13th at the same time.

Songs of love like "Love Me With All Your Heart," "It's Not Unusual, Lady," and more, will be heard by those waiting in their cars to drive thru to pick up their suppers catered by Partners Restaurant.

Saimeri has sung for a Bright Nights Opening, at the Log Cabin, MGM, Aqua Turf, and more.

Hailing from West Springfield, Saimeri will be performing some of his favorite American Songbook love songs in honor of the Valentine's weekend.

For more information, contact the church at 413-786-7111 or 413-530-8000.



Joe Saimeri will perform at the Agawam Congregational Church drive-thru supper on Feb. 12. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Church consignment shop holding Saturday hours

**AGAWAM** – Starting Saturday, Feb. 6, the Trading Post Consignment Shop located at the First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main Street, Agawam will be extending its hours to include the first Saturday of each month. While our Wednesday hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., our Saturday hours will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please come on by and check out our shop. We carry a variety of items including clothing, shoes, handbags, jewelry, toys, household and gift items.

Due to Covid -19 restrictions and workplace safety standards, we ask that patrons please adhere to our face coverings and sales space occupancy requirements. Ca-

pacity limitation signs are posted outside each sales room indicating the number of people allowed. To best maintain safe social distancing, a traffic flow pattern has been added and separate doors to enter and exit our facility are marked.

For future news and information, especially on our popular \$5 bag sale taking place in late February/early March, please visit our Facebook business page known as The Trading Post Consignment Shop or follow us on Instagram @fbctradingpost.

We thank our customers for their continued support, patience, understanding and compliance during this difficult and unprecedented times.

## Lenten mission events set for next week

**AGAWAM** – St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, Agawam, will host "Living Lent Well," a Lenten parish mission, Thursday, Feb. 11 through Sunday, Feb. 14, led by Father Scott Hastings.

Below is the complete "Living Lent Well" schedule:

Feb. 11, 7 p.m. - Mission Talk: "God's Disposition Toward Us"

Feb. 12, 7 p.m. - Mission Talk: "Receiving God's Love"

Feb. 13 and 14 - Mission Homilies

Feb. 14, 2:30 to 5 p.m.: Confession and Eucharistic Adoration

Father Hastings will also speak at each weekend Mass, Feb. 13 at 4 p.m., Feb. 14 at 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m.

Fr. Scott Hastings was born and raised in Omaha. He did his undergrad at the University of Dallas, and then studied at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained in 2008, and served at Sacred Heart Parish in Norfolk, taught Spanish at Norfolk Catholic High School, and then was pastor of St. Leonard Parish in Madison, NE. He is currently Archbishop Lucas' Vicar for Clergy and Judicial Vicar, a practicing canon lawyer, and a resident at St. Peter Parish in Omaha. Fr. Scott is active in the ecclesial movement of Communion and Liberation. The priesthood is the joy of his life.

The event is free. Social distancing and face coverings will be observed.

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# Schools & Youth

## Perella makes Dean's List

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. - Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester, in which more than 1,300 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs. Among them is full-time student Mia Perella of Agawam, who majors in Social Work.

## Delore named to President's List

FRANKLIN - Dean College is pleased to announce that Amanda Delore of Agawam, MA has earned a place on the President's List for the fall 2020 semester. Students named to the President's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

## Thomas named to Dean's List

ALBANY, NY - Amanda Thomas of Feeding Hills has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at The College of Saint Rose.

The Dean's List recognizes full-time undergraduate students who complete a minimum of 12 graded credit hours and who achieve a semester average of 3.5 without a D, F, or Incomplete grade.

## Hitchcock named to Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD - Springfield College has named Amanda Hitchcock from Agawam to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Hitchcock has a primary major of English. The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

## Students make UMass Dean's List

AMHERST - Below is a list of local students who were named to the dean's list at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the fall 2020 semester. In order to qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a four-point scale.

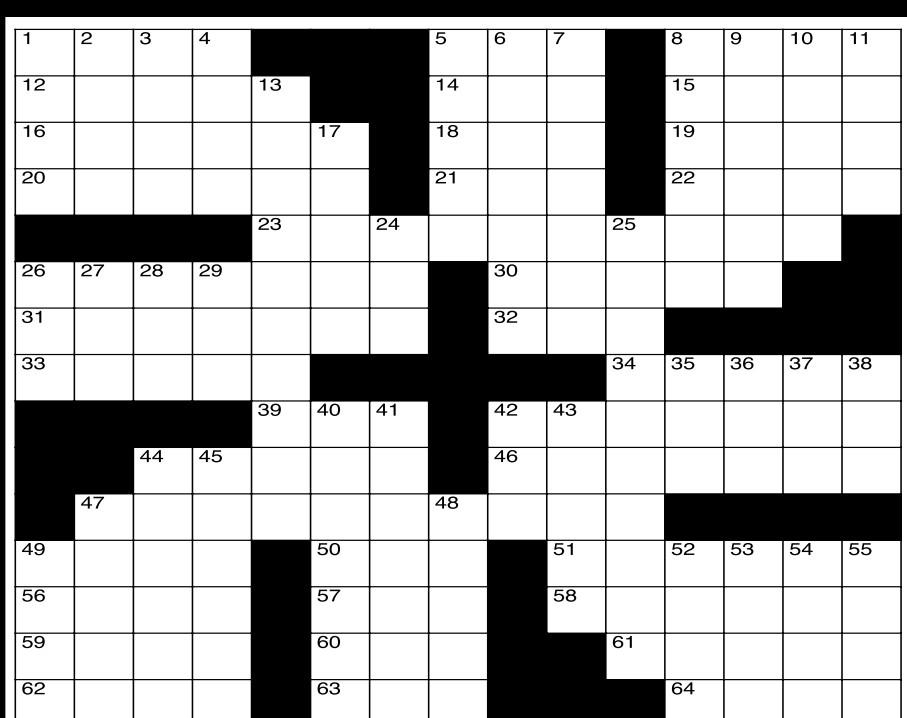
### Agawam

Aviella Abramchuk  
Lenox Alves  
Paige An Alves  
Brianne Noel Aubrey  
Alex Bishop  
Nasya Eliana Blackshear  
Maxwell Harchenko Blanton  
Lilivette Denise Colon  
Kayla Crean  
Grace Caroline Frogameni  
Jack Philip Frogameni  
Alexandra E Gonet  
Katelyn Rose Grasso  
Jenna Lisette Gravel  
Nathaniel Evan Humphries  
Peter Joon Jang  
David Javadian  
Jisun Kim  
Kristina Leonidovna Kinchak

Veronica Grace Moore  
Christopher John Morassi  
Nil Vipulkumar Patel  
Karley Cynthia Rogers  
Justin Donald Salva  
Jessica Anna Santaniello  
Laura Marie Snow  
Isabella Teresa Yacovone  
Fatima Zahoor  
Jessica Zhao  
Melissa Zhao  
Andrey Roman Zhirnov

### Feeding Hills

Luke K Barlar  
Nicholas Torpey Casamento  
Eyan Anthony Corridan  
Xhy-Y Luu Dao  
Mia Rose DePalma  
Daniel Frederick Donahue  
Emily Erin Habrat  
Dong Hyun Kang  
Brian Patrick Keefe Jr  
Jonathan Thomas Kelley  
Conner Gavin Lajoie  
Ryan James MacDonald  
Darlene Le Nguyen  
Matthew Anthony Rowe  
Angelina Marie Shayda  
Lena Tedeschi  
Brea E Wier



### CLUES ACROSS

- Nuclear near reach weapon
- Of she
- Hyperbolic function
- Rice dish
- A team's best pitcher
- Strong and healthy
- Induces
- Popular manga series
- From a distance
- Split
- Consumed
- Cushions
- All over
- One who provides food
- St. \_\_ Girl, brand of beer
- Walking slowly
- Wood
- Semitic gods
- Bugle

### CLUES DOWN

- 60-minute periods (abbr.)
- Congressman
- Plant of the heath family
- Subdivision of an army
- Having many different forms
- Shellfish
- Latin for hail
- Between sixth and seventh
- Maori war dance
- Precious or semiprecious stone
- Teeter totter
- Deity
- A major division of geological time
- Fishing net
- Small Caribbean bird
- Field force unit
- Japanese beverage
- Former measure of length
- Monetary unit
- The color of the sky
- Dough used to make tortillas
- Popular comic strip character
- Distinct form of a plant
- Replenishment
- Has its own altar
- Expedition to see animals
- Group of related organisms
- His and \_\_
- Frenetically
- Small integer
- Unit of energy
- Studies of culture
- Taxi
- Doctors' group
- Don't know when yet
- Prevents oil spills
- Popular CBS series
- Skin condition
- Christian creator and ruler of the universe
- They \_\_
- Caused severe damage
- Work done under harsh conditions for no pay
- One point east of due south
- Sea eagles
- Drenched
- State capital
- Italian city
- Sweetheart (archaic)
- Brief talk
- Popular disco group: Bee \_\_
- First Chinese dynasty
- Military vehicle
- Chinese Moslem

## Agawam High School Counseling Bulletin

### Reminders:

Members of the Class of 2021 should familiarize themselves with the information that has been posted to the Post-Secondary Planning section under the Counseling tab of the High School webpage. Most recently, the Senior College Application Packet was added, which is a great resource for students interested in applying to two- and four-year colleges.

[core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/937652/Senior\\_Application\\_Packet\\_2020-2021.pdf](http://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/937652/Senior_Application_Packet_2020-2021.pdf)

The COVID-19 pandemic has created uncertainty among students and families about nearly all aspects of the college admission process, including the role of standardized testing. We were scheduled to host testing in November, but did not feel it was prudent to have students from "red" area and states in our building. We looked into hosting school day testing for just Agawam students, but the next available date is in March. Due to the cancellation of SAT and ACT testing dates, more than 1,630 US colleges and universities announced they are moving to a test-optional policy, and more will surely follow. By going test-optional, institutions are making a definitive statement that they will not need test scores to make admission decisions this year. Despite the change in policies, high school students and their parents are asking, "Does test optional really mean test optional?" The answer, simply put, is: YES.

Please keep in mind that some colleges may require SAT or ACT scores for certain majors and/or the awarding of merit money. We encourage you to contact any schools that are of interest to you (website, email, or phone) to confirm that test scores are not required for your intended major and/or the awarding of merit money.

All students should be checking their Naviance accounts on a regular basis. There is so much valuable information for all students, whether you're headed directly into the work force, the military, or college upon graduation from AHS. If you can't access your account, please be in touch with your School Counselor.

### Open Houses/Informational Sessions/Discovery Days:

Westfield State University's Banacos Academic Center is hosting hour-long Zoom sessions to address questions that college bound students with learning differences may have. Disability/Accessibility Services staff from the other Massachusetts Universities and a Westfield State Admissions representative will be present. Sessions are capped at 50 sign ups. Students may RSVP at: [secure.blueoctane.net/forms/6SCHNXYC2D8H](http://secure.blueoctane.net/forms/6SCHNXYC2D8H)

The last session will occur on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 4 p.m.

The National Association of College Admission Counseling will be hosting its first Virtual College Fair on Sunday, Jan. 31 from 1 to 7 p.m. Additionally, there are smaller Focus Fairs designed especially for students with special interests or residing in specific regions: STEM (Mar. 7), Performing & Visual Arts (Mar. 16), Western US (Apr. 10), and Southeastern US (Apr. 20). Students may register at [virtualcollegefairs.org](http://virtualcollegefairs.org)

MASHPIRE will be hosting a series of webinars surrounding Exploring Professions in Healthcare. The sessions will be held Jan. 27 (12 noon to 1:30 p.m.), Feb. 10 (12 noon to 1:30 p.m.) and Feb. 24 (12 noon to 1:30 p.m.). Please contact Phylis Gedeon at [pgedeon@masshirespringfield.org](mailto:pgedeon@masshirespringfield.org) or 413-858-2818.

Whether you've already started your college search or have no idea where to begin, BigFuture Days will give you a chance to get information about multiple colleges from college admissions officers and current college students. The program for the Northeast will be held on Sunday, Mar. 7. Please visit [cb.org/bigfuturedays](http://cb.org/bigfuturedays) to register and learn more!

Colleges and universities will be hosting information and recruitment events, in a variety of formats, in the next couple of months. Check the colleges' websites for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event. While campus visits may look and feel different during this time,

it is important to take advantage of these programs to learn as much as you can about the schools that are of interest to you.

### Scholarship Information:

See your counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application.

Tenaska, founded in 1987, is a privately held energy company committed to being good neighbors in the communities where its plants are located. To express that commitment, scholarships are offered through the high schools located in the counties with plant operations (Berkshire Power Company in our area). Applicants must be a 2021 graduating high school senior who plan to attend a two- or four-year post-secondary education program at an accredited institution. The scholarship amount is \$1500, and applications, which are available at [Tenaska.com/scholarship-form](http://Tenaska.com/scholarship-form), are due no later than Feb. 12.

The Yawkey Scholars Program is designed to make college affordable for talented and motivated students from Massachusetts. It provides a four-year renewable tuition scholarship to a Massachusetts private college to help students achieve academically and go on to be successful and highly productive members of our community. Students must meet specific financial guidelines to be eligible. Applications, which are due by 5 p.m. on Feb. 12 are available at [yawkeyfoundation.org/how-we-give/yawkey-scholars-program](http://yawkeyfoundation.org/how-we-give/yawkey-scholars-program).

The Department of Higher Education (in partnership with EOHHS and the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission) will be offering the Moving to College Housing Scholarship. This scholarship will include year-round, on-campus housing, a meal plan and case management (it does NOT cover the cost of tuition, books or transportation) for students who enroll in a full-time in a degree-seeking program at one of the participating colleges: Berkshire Community College, Mass College of Liberal Arts, Massachusetts Bay Community College, Framingham State University, Mt. Wachusett Community College, Fitchburg State University, North Shore Community College and Salem State University. To be eligible, students must have experienced unaccompanied youth homelessness, be a US citizen or permanent resident/green card holder, and meet income limits. More information and the application can be found here:

[doe.mass.edu/sfs/edstability/mtc.html](http://doe.mass.edu/sfs/edstability/mtc.html). Please note that applications are due by March 1.

The William R. Rooney Scholarship is available to residents of Hampden County who are members of the senior class and have been on an IEP or 504 Plan for two years. Please visit [horacesmithfund.org](http://horacesmithfund.org) for an application. The application deadline is March 15.

The Walter S. Barr Scholarship is available to residents of Hampden County who are members of the senior class at their local public or private secondary schools. Awards will be made on the basis of all available information, including school records, recommendations and examination scores. Awards will be continued through the four year course if the student's record and need justify such continuance. Consideration will be given to both the merit and financial need of the applicant. Please see [horacesmithfund.org](http://horacesmithfund.org) for details. The application deadline is March 15.

The Professional Women in Construction (PWC) - CT Chapter is pleased to offer multiple scholarships to students (male or female) enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs in Construction, Construction Management, Interior Design, Architecture, Landscape Design, or Civil, Mechanical, Structural, and Electrical Engineering. The students must be enrolled full-time for the complete year. The application is available at [pwcusa.org/chapters/about-connecticut/connecticut-scholarship/](http://pwcusa.org/chapters/about-connecticut/connecticut-scholarship/) and is due no later than March 17.

Seniors who attended the James Clark School (two-year minimum) are encouraged to apply for the James Clark PTO Scholarship. Applications are available in Naviance and are due no later than March 29.

# NHS labels storm drains with DPW

AGAWAM - Volunteers from the Agawam High School National Honor Society recently partnered with the Agawam Department of Public Works to mark 351 storm drains throughout the community. Storm drain marking involves the labeling of storm drain inlets with a tile as a reminder to businesses and residents; "No Dumping, Drains to Stream".

According to the EPA, more pollution comes from the combined effects of common daily actions such as lawn care, vehicle maintenance, and pet waste management. Storm water pollution begins at the home and business, with the drains on our streets. Rainwater washes down streets and parking lots, driveways and sidewalks, roofs and yards, carrying water and everything it picks up into the storm drains. Storm water is not cleaned or treated before it empties into our waterways from the storm drain inlets. As a result, lawn care chemicals, grass clippings, litter, pet waste, automotive products and anything else picked up along the way are dumped into our waterways.

According to the Department of Public Works, the town maintains more than 3,600 catch basins. Since the implementation of storm drain marking, volunteers have marked more than 2,000 catch basins throughout the community. "We are very thankful for the time and work these volunteers have invested to help the DPW and our community" Stated Mayor William Sapelli. "It is very easy to overlook all the pollutants we may or may not intentionally cause to flow into our water ways. Little changes in our behavior, such as picking up pet waste, makes a big difference in the quality of our waterways".

For more Stormwater information visit [www.agawam.ma.us/stormwater](http://www.agawam.ma.us/stormwater)



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## NOTICE

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| USDA INSPIRED FROZEN<br><b>1/2 SPIRAL HAM.....</b>                                    | <b>\$1.69</b><br>lb |

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| USDA INSPIRED FRESH BONELESS<br><b>80% LEAN GROUND BEEF.....</b> | <b>\$2.79</b><br>7 LB BAG |
| USDA INSPIRED FROZEN<br><b>TURKEY BREAST HOTEL STYLE.....</b>    | <b>\$1.29</b><br>lb       |
| INSPIRED FRESH HILLSHIRE FARM<br><b>KIELBASA POLSKA.....</b>     | <b>\$3.49</b><br>ea       |
| INSPIRED IQF FROZEN<br><b>JUMBO RAW SHRIMP EASY PEEL.....</b>    | <b>\$17.99</b><br>ea      |

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# SPORTS

## BASKETBALL

### Brownies fall late

**AGAWAM** – In their second contest of the season, Agawam High School boys basketball was defeated by visiting Westfield 45-42. Agawam trailed throughout most of the game, but came back to take a 41-40 lead with 2:30 remaining in the game. But Westfield would grab five of the next six points for the win.



Vincent Wallace heads up for a basket. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Thomas Arcelaschi reaches out ahead of a defender for a basket.



Matthew Cleavall attempts a free throw.



Jermaine Norfleet gets ready to shoot.



Griffin Levesque goes for the long layup.

## RACING

### Opening weekend events announced

WATERBURY, Conn. — American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS) officials have announced the slate of racing for the 46th Thompson Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday April 11. The 82nd season opener at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park currently consists of a nine-division card highlighted by the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 for the Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series.

The event marks the return of the historic season kick-off after a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Icebreaker was first held in 1974 and has become a staple of the Northeast motorsports calendar. It includes two days of racing with an optional Test N' Tune on Friday, April 9.

All five of Thompson Speedway's local divisions join the Outlaw Open Modified Series on the



The Icebreaker 125 will kick off Thompson Speedway's race season. SUBMITTED PHOTO

card. This includes the Sunoco Modifieds, ACT-type Late Models, Limited Sportsmen/8-cylinder Street Stocks, SK Light Modifieds, and Mini Stocks. Laps for each division are to be determined. The purses for these divisions will be similar to those at the Thompson

Speedway events ACT and PASS promoted in 2020.

The PASS Super Late Models headline the Saturday portion of Icebreaker Weekend with a 75-lap event. It is the fifth straight Icebreaker featuring PASS, joining

## 'FALL IN SPRING'

### MASCAC cancels 'fall in spring' competition

WESTFIELD — The Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) announced today that the eight MASCAC Presidents made the difficult decision to cancel the fall in spring semester athletic conference competition, including all indoor and outdoor athletic conference competition. The decision ends the possibility of resuming the fall conference competition during the spring of 2021 but will allow fall and winter student-athletes training opportunities. While there will not be a conference schedule for MASCAC fall sports, member institutions will be allowed to schedule fall sport non-conference games at their discretion.

"The MASCAC office has been meeting regularly with the presidents, athletic directors,

athletic trainers and other essential staff to consider ways we can bring our student-athletes back to the playing field safely while adhering to all state, federal and NCAA guidelines," said MASCAC Commissioner Angela Baumann. "Regrettably, the highly contagious nature of the COVID-19 virus and the risk of community spread through conference competition proved too great a risk to our student-athletes to engage in conference play. With the health and well-being of our student-athletes and our staff as our priority, the difficult decision was made to cancel the fall in spring MASCAC competition," Baumann said.

Although fall MASCAC competition has been canceled, the state universities will continue

# Sports



The event is part of the Outlaw Open Modified Series. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## RACING ■ from page 8

the 2016-2019 editions. PASS holds their first event of the year in the Northeast after opening the season with a pair of events at North Carolina's Hickory Motor Speedway.

The NEMA Lites of the Northeastern Midget Association, who are longtime Thompson Speedway supporters, return for another showing at the Icebreaker. The EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge rounds out the card. Both series were slated to be part of the 2020 Icebreaker before its cancellation.

Officials are finalizing the full schedule for each day. More information regarding schedules, pricing, and ticketing will be announced over the coming weeks.

"We have something for everyone at the Icebreaker," PASS president Tom Mayberry said. "It's important to start the season with a bang, and we've put together a line-up to do just that. We know a lot of people are looking forward to the Outlaw Open Modified Series debut, but there's plenty of other action planned for fans of both open-wheel and full-fender racing."

Entries are already pouring in for the 125-lap Outlaw Open main event. Two of the biggest names on the list are Franklin, MA's Bobby Santos III and Milford, CT's Doug Coby. Santos has posted four career Tour-type Modified victories at Thompson Speedway and six at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. He recently triumphed in the famed Little 500 for Sprint Cars at Indiana's Anderson Speedway.

## COMPETITION ■ from page 8

to provide student-athletes with on-campus, in-person practices, conditioning, and training opportunities during the spring semester in order to support their physical and mental well-being. These practice and training opportunities will not use a year of NCAA Eligibility and will be done in compliance with campus, state and federal COVID guidance and protocols.

"The MASCAC Presidents know the value of intercollegiate athletics to our campus community and how important sports are to our student-athletes. The news that we need to cancel the fall conference competition is understandably disappointing, but the health and safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance," said Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts President James Birge, Chair of the MASCAC Council of Presidents. "These are unprecedented times and making the difficult decision to cancel fall conference competition is equally unprecedented. We will continue to monitor the facts and re-evaluate the status of athletics as information and data evolves," said President Birge.

The MASCAC Presidents are hopeful that a spring sports season will occur and plan to announce their decision in February.

"We are disappointed conference competition couldn't be provided for our fall student-athletes in the spring," said

Coby is a six-time champion of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour with six victories at Thompson.

Other notable Modified standouts on the early entry list include former Modified Racing Series and, International Supermodified Association Champion Jon McKenna, former NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series National Champion Keith Rocco, 2011 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Champion Ronnie Silk, and Mike Christopher Jr., the winner of the Budweiser Modified Open at last October's World Series of Speedway Racing. They'll be joined by Northeast household names such as Matt Swanson, Eric Goodale, Andy Shaw, Carl Medeiros Jr., and Dan Meservey.

A limited amount of garage stalls are still available for Icebreaker weekend. These will be awarded to Outlaw Open Modified Series competitors in the order their entries are received.

The Icebreaker 125 is the opener of the new Outlaw Open Modified Series. The six-pack of big-money events concludes with the \$20,000-to-win Thompson 300 on October 9 and 10 as part of the 59th World Series of Speedway Racing. In between are four 75-lap events on Wednesday nights throughout the summer that will pay a minimum of \$5,000-to-win. Rules, entry forms, and other information for the Outlaw Open Modified Series is available at [www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds](http://www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds) or [www.racedayct.com/thompson2021](http://www.racedayct.com/thompson2021).

## from page 8

MASCAC Commissioner Angela Baumann. "We are still creating plans to play the spring sports season and are hopeful we will be able to provide those student-athletes an athletic experience."

Throughout the 2020-21 academic year, the MASCAC will be celebrating its' 50th anniversary with special features, facts and trivia commemorating the event. Our conference has a rich history of success on the playing field and in the classroom. Over the academic year, the conference will be highlighting the student-athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators from the last 50 years.

## Hampshire association seeking umpires

**REGION** — The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line instruction. The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire and Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area. If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at [quithunter@comcast.net](mailto:quithunter@comcast.net).

## Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball

**LUDLOW** — The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>.

## New umpires needed for 2021 season

**REGION** — The Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpire Association is looking for individuals who are interested in umpiring baseball at the high school and youth level. The WMBUA services high school baseball and various other leagues in the Greater Springfield area/ Hampden County.

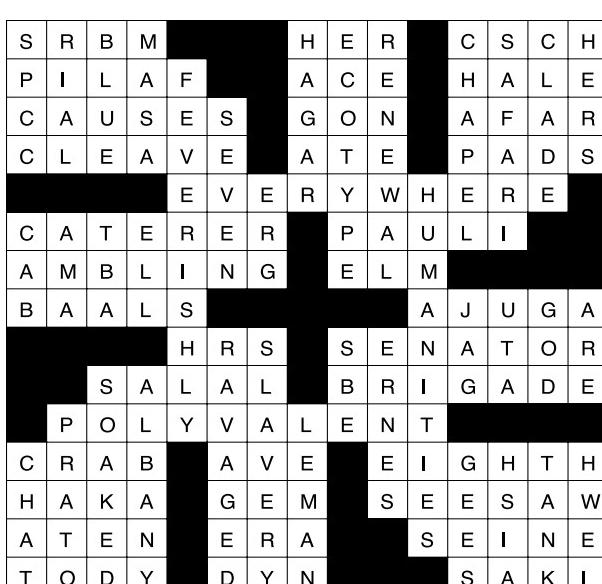
The WMBUA's first year members class will be held for roughly five to six weeks, beginning in February. The class dates right now are fluid as the organization monitors what happens with the COVID-19 pandemic. Class is usually one or two nights per week from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The class takes place in the First Baptist Church of East Longmeadow's classrooms at 50 Parker Street. Classes may also be virtual if COVID-19 does not allow for in-person meetings.

If you are interested in taking the classes, contact Chris Meffen, the WMBUA Secretary, via email at [cmeffen8017@gmail.com](mailto:cmeffen8017@gmail.com) or visit the WMBUA website at <http://wmbua.org>.

## Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



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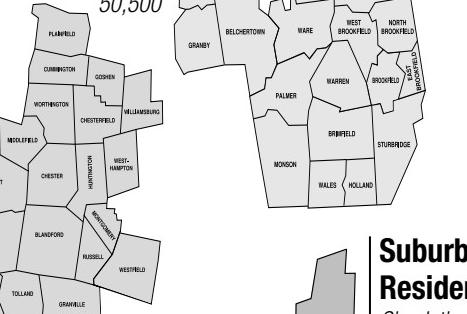
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# Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD21P0084EA**

**Estate of:  
Denise Theresa Bedard  
Also known as:  
Denise T Bedard  
Date of Death: 02/01/2020  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Michelle Bedard of Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Michelle Bedard of Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised adminis-

tration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/24/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons inter-

ested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 20, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
02/04/2021

## NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to build a 155-foot monopole telecommunications facility in the vicinity of 128 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills (Agawam), Hampden County, Massachusetts 01030. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Project 6121000329 - JD c/o EBI Consulting, 21 B Street,

Burlington, MA 01803, jdrayer@ebiconsulting.com, or via telephone at (727) 332-1595.  
2/04/2021

## LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

The Agawam City Council Administrative Subcommittee will conduct a remote Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:30 pm**, in the auditorium at the Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA, on

two Eversource petitions for permission to perform work on properties located at South Westfield Street in Feeding Hills as well as Ramah Circle South in Agawam which could include installation of a line of poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protect fixtures along and across the property.

Any person wishing to provide testimony during the Public Hearing on these petitions may do so by dialing 1-978-990-5187 and using

access code 8476635 followed by # sign. Calls must be made at 6:30 pm to provide testimony. This remote public hearing will be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us) and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15.

Robert E. Rossi, Chair  
Administrative Sub-Committee  
01/28, 02/04/2021

**PUBLIC NOTICES | page 12**

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling).**

**Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands.**

**Thank you.**

## How to submit legal notices

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and/or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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# Public Notices

from page 11

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD14P0004GD**

In the interests of:  
**Obafemi Morakinyo  
Of: Agawam, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Incapacitated Person/  
Protected Person  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
TO EXPAND THE  
POWERS OF A  
GUARDIAN**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Heritage Hall South** of Agawam, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **02/11/2021**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you

fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 14, 2021

**Rosemary Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
02/04/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-8600  
Docket No. HD20P1930EA  
Estate of:  
SALVATORE PERSICO  
Date of Death:  
June 22, 2020**

#### INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **STACEY PERSICO** of Agawam, MA and L. JAMES SASANECKI of Suffolk, CT.

**STACEY PERSICO** of Agawam, MA and L. JAMES SASANECKI of Suffolk, CT have been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

02/04/2021



This is the second straight year the race has been postponed. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## St. Patrick's Road Race going virtual for 2021

HOLYOKE – If you haven't heard by now, for the second year in a row, the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race has been cancelled due to concerns surrounding COVID-19.

We certainly didn't come to this decision lightly but in the interest of our participants, volunteers, and our community we have cancelled this year's in person race. We've been looking forward to the race since the cancellation last year, never thinking this pandemic would last this long.

We understand that this isn't a replacement for the real thing but running with 7,000 others right now is not possible, but we will try to make it just as fun! This March we will hold the second Virtual Holyoke St Patrick's Day Road Race. Create your own 10K route (or use ours!) and compete against other runners. We will provide a familiar looking t-shirt, printable custom bib number, free beer, and local giveaways.

Go to <http://racewire.com/register.php?id=11824> for all the details to register.

Lastly, thank you for your patience and support over the last year. The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke works tirelessly year-round to make this "Homecoming Weekend" the best one of the year. We look

forward to the opportunity to host you on the streets of Holyoke for the 45th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race in March 2022.



You can create your own course for this year's virtual Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race.

## STCC partners with Head Start to create online preschool

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College student Hannah Lavigne is leading a small class of preschoolers in story time and an activity. She had to plan the lesson and carry it out. She selected the book "Where Do Balloons Go?" by Jamie Lee Curtis, a story about a lost balloon and its many adventures, and came up with a related activity.

As teachers do, she held the book up to make sure the little ones could see the colorful pictures.

But the students in this Head Start class were no wiggle worms clustered around this student teacher's feet. They were each in their own home, watching their teacher and classmates on a computer screen.

And from her own West Springfield home, Lavigne conducted the activity she planned, showing them two balloons, one buoyant with helium, the other gravity-bound. When Lavigne let go of the helium balloon, students squealed when it disappeared from the camera's eye and their view, drifting upward to her bedroom ceiling. Maybe, like the balloons in the book, this balloon was having a dance party in the sky. They watched as the air-filled balloon dropped to the ground.

#### Welcome to Head Start at Home.

Last fall, Lavigne, like all STCC early childhood practicum students, completed her practicum teaching online.

In March, when the pandemic shut down schools, closed daycare centers and sent legions of college students into intensive online learning, professors in STCC's early childhood education program didn't panic; they adapted.

About 55 students are enrolled in STCC's one-year certificate program or two-year associate degree program in early childhood education, including both Spanish-speaking and English-speaking cohorts.

Students are required to spend 150 hours teaching in the field under the guidance of mentor teachers. Prior to pandemic shut-downs, they logged those hours in a variety of settings: family child care operations, private childcare programs, public school preschool programs and federally funded Head Start centers.

When many centers closed down, STCC students were left without their practicum settings to return to. Luckily, many had already logged time in the field. And then the state reduced the teaching requirements to 75 hours.

"We sort of had to just muddle through and scrape ourselves over the finish line," said STCC Assistant Professor Aimee Dalenta, who works in the Early Childhood Education program. "But then in the summer we were in a real pickle."

To meet that need, Dalenta created a six-week long fully virtual pre-school for children ages 3-5 where STCC students took turns planning lessons, teaching them, and serving as assistant teachers.

The virtual preschool was a hit for both the students who gained practicum experience and the participating families whose

children had enrichment experiences.

STCC students not only learned about good teaching, they gained first-hand experience in something all teachers understand: the need to adapt to whatever circumstances they face.

"We spent a lot of time talking about the flexibility it requires to teach online," Dalenta said. "We talked about how marketable it makes them in an uncertain future. Working with preschoolers online is not an easy thing to do."

For the fall semester, though, Dalenta knew the STCC virtual preschool could not be replicated. While it was a rich and successful summer experience, it was not a sustainable model. It also lacked something important to all teachers in training: the opportunity to work with experienced teachers, who provide grounding for student teachers and model teaching strategies. They needed mentors.

Dalenta reached out to the Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start program, long a placement for STCC practicum students.

Mahera Chiarizo, HCS Head Start's director of education, was eager to team up with Dalenta to create a good learning experience for STCC students in pandemic conditions.

"This was a first for all of us, doing something remotely," said Chiarizo. "With the right ideas and motivation, it became a very successful partnership."

Chiarizo said the ongoing connection between STCC and Head Start has been a fruitful two-way street for many years.

"This is a pipeline for employment," she said. "We really look at these partnerships as an opportunity to grow the field."

Relying on the technology platform ClassDojo, which is used by Springfield public schools, STCC students were able to join their mentor teachers for virtual parent meetings, lesson planning, teaching, even taking advantage of professional development opportunities presented to Springfield teachers.

Though classes were taught remotely, the practicum sought to replicate typical student teaching experience in other ways: For example, starting off with a small assignment and gradually building up to increasing amounts of responsibility around both planning and teaching. And just as they do with in-person practicum placements, students are encouraged by their mentor teachers to reflect on what worked well with a given lesson, what they might have done differently and what they learned from the experience.

"It's the same approach as if they were in the classroom, but it's virtual," Chiarizo said.

While teaching preschoolers via computer is not easy, Dalenta believes the principles student teachers need to ground themselves in are enduring, whether in person, on ClassDojo or any other technology platform.

"The fundamentals of good teaching pedagogy," Dalenta said, "will always be the same until the end of time."



Student Hannah Lavigne is working with STCC to start a preschool program. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Hampden Charter School earns award

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Hampden Charter School of Science West has earned the College Board AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles. Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded girls' access in AP Computer Science courses.

Out of the 20,000 institutions that offer AP courses, 1,119 achieved either 50% or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science examinees meeting or exceeding that of the school's female population during the 2019-2020 school year. That's nearly 37% more than the 818 schools recognized last year. In 2020, Hampden Charter School of Science

West was one of 831 recognized in the category of AP Computer Science Principles.

According to the data, female students who take AP CSP in high school are more than 5 times as likely to major in computer science in college, compared to similar female students who did not take CSP. The study also finds AP CSP students are nearly twice as likely to enroll in AP CSA, and that for most students, AP CSP serves as a stepping-stone to other advanced AP STEM coursework.

Hampden Charter School of Science West is a tuition free public charter school serving students from Westfield, West Springfield, Agawam and Holyoke. For more information about upcoming events, please visit: <https://west.hampdencharter.org/>